

Amendment in Response to Final Rejection under 37 CFR 1.114
Title: "Container with Improved Stacking/Denesting Capability"
Filed: January 18, 2001

Atty Docket No. R029 1337

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A paperboard nestable container, comprising: having
a continuous sidewall with inner and outer surfaces defining a sidewall thickness therebetween and upper and lower edges[,]; and
a bottom wall formed along said lower edge of the sidewall,
said sidewall being downwardly convergent and having a bulge ~~made of said paperboard material~~ projecting inwardly from said inner surface of the sidewall, and
said sidewall also having at least one bulge projecting outwardly from the outer surface of said sidewall, said thickness of the sidewall being greater at at least some locations along said bulges than at other locations on said sidewall,
said at least one outwardly projecting bulge adapted to cooperate with the inwardly directed bulge of an underlying nested container to encourage aligned stacking of the containers,
wherein said container is press-formed from a single substantially flat blank, the blank being substantially comprised of a paperboard material, and
said sidewall comprising a plurality of pleats extending up said sidewall and created by folds in the blank.
2. (Original) The container of claim 1 wherein said inwardly projecting bulge is ring-like.
3. (Original) The container of claim 2 wherein said at least one outwardly directed bulge is ring-like.

Amendment in Response to Final Rejection under 37 CFR 1.114
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Atty Docket No. R029 1337

4. (Previously Amended) The container of claim 3 wherein said inwardly and said at least one outwardly directed bulges including a plurality of peripherally spaced ribs which define locations in said sidewall which have a greater sidewall thickness than other locations on said sidewall.

5. (Original) The container of claim 3 wherein said container further includes a peripheral rim projecting outwardly from said upper edge of said sidewall.

6. (Original) The container of claim 5 wherein said inwardly projecting bulge is adjacent to said upper edge of said sidewall.

7. (Original) The container of claim 6 wherein said at least one outwardly projecting bulge is horizontally aligned with said inwardly projecting bulge.

8. (Original) The container of claim 7 wherein said peripheral rim is substantially parallel with said bottom wall of the container.

9. (Original) The container of claim 3 further including a second outwardly projecting bulge on said sidewall positioned beneath said at least one outwardly projecting bulge.

10. (Original) The container of claim 9 wherein said second outwardly projecting bulge is ring-like.

11. (Previously Amended) The container of claim 10 wherein said second outwardly projecting bulge includes a plurality of peripherally spaced ribs which define locations in said sidewall which have a greater sidewall thickness than other locations on said sidewall.

12. (Original) The container of claim 7 further including a second outwardly projecting bulge on said sidewall positioned beneath said at least one outwardly projecting bulge.

Amendment in Response to Final Rejection under 37 CFR 1.114
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Any Docket No. R029 1337

Claims 13-15 (Canceled).

16. (Previously Amended) The container of claim 1 wherein said container is made of a material that is a laminate that further includes a microwave susceptor layer.

17. (Currently Amended) A paperboard nestable container comprising:
a continuous sidewall with inner and outer surfaces defining a upper and lower edge of the sidewall[,]; ~~and~~

a bottom wall formed along said lower edge of the sidewall,

said sidewall being downwardly convergent and having a bulge ~~made of paperboard material~~ projecting inwardly from said inner surface of the sidewall, ~~and~~

said sidewall also having at least one bulge projecting outwardly from the outer surface of said sidewall,

said at least one outwardly projecting bulge and said at least one inwardly directed bulge each having bottom edges,

the bottom edges of the at least one outwardly projecting bulge and the bottom edges of the at least one inwardly projecting bulge being located on the sidewall at substantially the same vertical distance from the bottom wall,

wherein said container is press-formed from a single substantially flat blank, the blank being substantially comprised of a paperboard material, and

said sidewall comprising a plurality of pleats extending up said sidewall and created by folds in the blank.

Claim 18 (Canceled).

19. (Currently Amended) The container of claim 1, wherein the blank includes a plurality of score-lines whereat the blank folds to form the sidewall, ~~the sidewall having a plurality of pleats formed therein.~~

Amendment in Response to Final Rejection under 37 CFR 1.114
Title: "Container with Improved Stacking/Denesting Capability"
Filed: January 18, 2001

Atty Docket No. R029 1337

Claim 20 (Canceled).

21. (Currently Amended) The container of claim 17, wherein the blank includes a plurality of score-lines whereat the blank folds to form the sidewall, ~~the sidewall having a plurality of pleats formed therein.~~

22. (New) The container of claim 1 wherein said at least one outwardly projecting bulge is horizontally aligned with said inwardly projecting bulge.

23. (New) The container of claim 17 wherein said at least one outwardly projecting bulge is horizontally aligned with said inwardly projecting bulge.

24. (New) The container of claim 17 said inwardly and said at least one outwardly directed bulges include a plurality of peripherally spaced ribs extending up the sidewall which define locations in said sidewall which have a greater sidewall thickness than other locations on said sidewall.

25. (New) The container of claim 17 wherein said container further includes a peripheral rim projecting outwardly from said upper edge of said sidewall.

26. (New) A paperboard nestable container, comprising:
a sidewall with inner and outer surfaces defining a sidewall thickness therebetween and upper and lower edges;
a bottom wall formed along said lower edge of said sidewall; and
a peripheral rim projecting outwardly from said upper edge of said sidewall,
said sidewall being downwardly convergent and having a ring-like bulge projecting inwardly from said inner surface of said sidewall,

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Title: "Container with Improved Stacking/Denesting Capability"
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Atty Docket No. R029 1337

said sidewall also having at least one ring-like bulge projecting outwardly from said outer surface of said sidewall,

wherein said container is press-formed from a blank being substantially comprised of a paperboard material,

said inwardly and said at least one outwardly directed bulges including a plurality of peripherally spaced ribs extending up said sidewall which define locations in said sidewall which have a greater sidewall thickness than other locations on said sidewall, and

said sidewall comprising a plurality of pleats extending up said sidewall and created by folds in the blank.

27. (New) The container of claim 26 wherein said inwardly projecting bulge is adjacent to said upper edge of said sidewall.

28. (New) The container of claim 26 wherein said at least one outwardly projecting bulge is horizontally aligned with said inwardly projecting bulge.

29. (New) The container of claim 26 wherein said peripheral rim is substantially parallel with said bottom wall of the container.

30. (New) The container of claim 26 further including a second outwardly projecting bulge on said sidewall and positioned beneath said at least one outwardly projecting bulge.

31. (New) The container of claim 26 wherein said container is made of a material that is a laminate that further includes a microwave susceptor layer.

32. (New) The container of claim 1 wherein said upper edge of said sidewall defines an opening of the container, and said opening is wider than said bottom wall.

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Atty Docket No. R029 1337

33. (New) The container of claim 17 wherein said upper edge of said sidewall defines an opening of the container, and said opening is wider than said bottom wall.

34. (New) The container of claim 26 wherein said upper edge of said sidewall defines an opening of the container, and said opening is wider than said bottom wall.